



One Hundred First Legislature - First Session - 2009
Introducer's Statement of Intent
LB 646

Chairperson: Tom Carlson
Committee: Agriculture
Date of Hearing: February 24, 2009

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

Legislative Bill 646 would adopt the Livestock Growth Act to encourage rural economic growth through assisting Livestock Friendly counties who desire livestock development. It would also create a revolving loan fund to provide counties with loans to assist with increased infrastructure costs arising from any improvements needed due to new livestock development.

This bill recognizes the vital role of livestock production in the economic prosperity of Nebraska, and purposes to use that strength to help rural economic development in counties that desire to develop more livestock opportunities.

LB 646 instructs the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Economic Development (DED) to work together to provide information, assistance, and expertise to Livestock Friendly counties as these counties move through the evaluation process of identifying potential locations for livestock development. This allows a Livestock Friendly county to go through an evaluation process, and identify preferred sites up front, on their terms. The intent is that these counties decide what type and size of livestock development they want, locate a site or sites for development, then use it to draw the development that they desire.

The Livestock Growth Act tries to address the problem of funding infrastructure improvements needed to serve any new livestock development. Many times infrastructure improvement costs become a potential obstacle for successful development in the county. LB 646 creates the Livestock Growth Act Revolving Loan Fund administered by DED to address those concerns. These loans would assist counties with the construction, modification, and maintenance of roads and bridges to facilitate the growth of livestock production. This gives the counties additional funds up front and the ability to recover the cost to pay it back to the fund over five years.

In addition, the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) shall also assist by providing preliminary onsite environmental appraisals of potential livestock production locations as identified by a county to evaluate the viability of a potential site.

Principal Introducer: _____
Senator Mark Christensen